



BELARUS

TASK 1

TOPIC: SURVIVAL STRATEGY FOR PEOPLE IN A CRITICAL ERA

The duration of the class (meetings): 45 minutes.

Target audience: Students 14+

Materials: links to videos or technical means for viewing in general (projector, screen).

Class based on: "Belarus at the Turn of an Epoch" study module; interviews with Sergei Bandarenko, Nina Stuzhinskaya, and Sofia Savelova.

Abstract: During the "long" transition (1986-1994), Belarusians faced serious socio-economic challenges caused by two cardinal phenomena - the catastrophe at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986 and the collapse of the planned socialist system, the consequences of which became particularly acute through commodity shortages in 1989-1992. The inhabitants of Belarus after the Chernobyl disaster were forced to think about their physical survival and preservation of their health. And in the conditions of the collapse of the former economic model, many Belarusians were engaged in the search for means of subsistence and new kinds of activity.

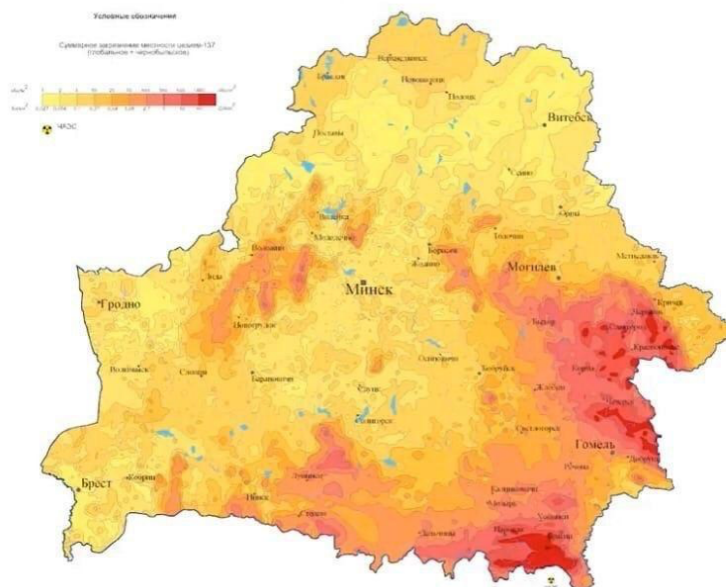
Format of the exercise:

1. The Chernobyl disaster

Briefly tell (remind) the students (panelists) about the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and show a map of the contamination resulting from the disaster.

Interviews with Sergey Bandarenko (1:06 - 2:34),

Nina Stuzhinskaya (8:48 - 9:28; 10:00 - 11:40).



Cesium-137 contamination of the territory of the Republic of Belarus, as of 1986 (Source: 35 years after the Chernobyl disaster: results and prospects of overcoming its consequences : national report of the Republic of Belarus / Department of the Chernobyl NPP disaster consequences elimination of the Ministry of Emergencies of the Republic of Belarus. Minsk, 2020).

Ask the following questions:

- How should the authorities act in a situation where it is necessary to save people during man-made disasters?
- What can people do when they have to save their lives and health during disasters? (evacuation, forced relocation, helping others, migration...)

Case of Sergei Bondarenko:

Because of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, Sergei was forced to leave his homeland in Svetlogorsk district of Gomel region. He lived and worked in Russia. Then Sergei returned to Belarus. The Soviet Union collapses. Sergei is forced to look for a new place of residence. Officially, his former place of residence is not on the list of the most contaminated areas, but it is dangerous to live there. He is forced to look for a new home and learn new professions.

<https://youtu.be/yuEdjPYGOW4>



Case of Nina Stuzhinskaya:

as one of the manifestations of self-organization of Belarusian society, Nina participates in the distribution of humanitarian aid and organizes educational courses.

<https://youtu.be/fj7ffJjOJaY>

